



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS  
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS  
HOLLY J. MITCHELL  
LINDSEY P. HORVATH  
JANICE HAHN  
KATHRYN BARGER

**Correspondence Received**

The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
3.		<b>Favor</b>	Alex Cerussi	<p>On behalf of Mercy For Animals and our Los Angeles-based supporters and staff, thank you for considering a motion to expand county action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through food procurement, which we support.</p> <p>This motion supports Action 134 of the County's Sustainability Plan, which states that the County will "promote plant-based menu options through nutrition and food procurement policies in food service settings such as County facilities, hospitals, higher learning institutions, school districts, jails, and other food settings." The County can demonstrate its commitment to environmental sustainability, public health, fiscal responsibility, inclusivity, and animal welfare, by implementing policies that make plant-based foods the focal point of meals. Importantly, this motion significantly builds upon the County's 2024 motion, Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions through Food Procurement.</p> <p>Mercy For Animals is especially encouraged by the County's commitment to integrate the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's updated Standards for Prepared Foods, Snacks, and Beverages in all new and renewing food service contracts. By integrating strategies that encourage a 2:1 ratio of plant-based to animal-based entrées and require offering plant-based dairy alternatives, for example, the County is taking meaningful and much needed action.</p> <p>In addition to reducing its food-related greenhouse gas emissions, we respectfully urge the County to consider additional environmental costs associated with purchasing animal-based foods. For example, chicken production uses six times as much water as plant-based proteins and the growing of chicken feed is a main contributor to deforestation. The prioritization and increased accessibility of healthy, plant-based foods can help address environmental harms beyond greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>On behalf of Mercy For Animals, I'd like to thank Chair Horvath and Supervisor Solis for introducing this motion and urge the Board to support.</p>



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The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
3.		<b>Favor</b>	Ana-Alicia Carr	Honorable supervisors, my name is Ana-Alicia Carr, Director of Policy and Coalitions with the Los Angeles Food Policy Council a collective impact organization committed to ensuring food is healthy, affordable, accessible, sustainable and fair for all Angelenos. We are writing in support of today's motion to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through food procurement. Increasing the amount and variety of plant-based and plant-forward options carries benefits for public health, environmental sustainability and animal welfare. LAFPC recognizes the power institutional procurement can have on driving market demand across the supply chain and ultimately building the equitable food system we know is possible. We are greatly encouraged by today's motion and look forward to continuing to build on its success. Thank you.
			Ariana Azoulai	Hello my name is Ariana and I am providing public comment on behalf of Plant Based Treaty. Plant Based Treaty encourages the Board of Supervisors to support item #3. As an individual who lives in Los Angeles County, I also believe it would be an incredibly smart move.  Animal Agriculture produces as many greenhouse gas emissions as the entire transportation sector combined.  Plant Based Treaty is so excited to see Los Angeles County taking action. Thank you for considering this motion.
			Elena Priesen Reis	As the co-chair of the Caltech Graduate Student Council Sustainability Committee, and coordinator of the campus "Plant-Based University" initiative, as well as a member of the Caltech Sustainability Advisory Committee and member of the Caltech Dining Advisory Committee, and an LA County resident, I think it is without a doubt that prioritizing plant-based diets remains a severely neglected yet extremely powerful way for the individual and larger organizations to reduce our climate impact and create a food system for the better of the planet in the long term as well. Food remains one of the easiest things logistically to alter, and could create powerful sustainability impact, so I think supporting this motion should be a top priority considering the urgency of the climate crisis.



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Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
3.		<b>Favor</b>	Ellen Dent	<p>My name is Ellen Dent, and I am a Plant Based Treaty Campaigner. I want to thank Supervisors Lindsey P. Horvath and Supervisor Hilda L. Solis for bringing forth this motion. I wholeheartedly support this motion because I believe that analyzing the food procured and adding more plant-based options based on the findings will help LA County meet its greenhouse gas emissions goals.</p> <p>Animal agriculture is responsible for more than a third of greenhouse gas emissions and more than the whole transportation system combined. It utilizes 83% of the farmland we use but only produces 18% of the global caloric intake along with only 33% of protein. Our food system alone can push our planet's temperature well past the 1.5 degrees celsius target and past 2 degrees celsius. It is the leading cause of biodiversity loss, deforestation, and ocean dead zones.</p> <p>For all of the reasons above and so many more I urge you to pass this motion. My daughter was born in the heart of Los Angeles County and I want her to be able to enjoy being there in the future. I hope you will pass it for her and for the future of all the residents in the county while setting an example for other governments to take this vital action in the effort to mitigate the climate crisis.</p> <p>Thank you very much for your time and consideration.</p>
			Hannah Truxell	



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The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
3.		<b>Favor</b>	Jennifer R Molidor	<p>SUPPORT: EXPANDING COUNTY ACTION TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS THROUGH FOOD PROCUREMENT</p> <p>Please see the attached submitted comments.</p> <p>We fully support the motion to integrate the Department of Public Health's updated Standards for Prepared Foods, Snacks, and Beverages in all new and renewing food service contracts to reduce the County's food-related emissions by procuring more plant-based and less animal-based foods. Plant-based foods have a dramatically lower climate footprint than animal-based foods. Meanwhile, half of all food-related emissions come from meat and dairy products, responsible for at least 16% of global greenhouse gases.</p> <p>Los Angeles County has an opportunity to provide food policy leadership. The proposed motion can help drive us in the right direction and provide an ideal model for other county food policies. Sincerely, Jennifer Molidor, Ph.D.</p>
			Joey Gaber	<p>Hello, my name is Joey. I'm a volunteer campaigner with Plant Based Treaty. First of all, I want to thank the LA County Board of Supervisors for considering item #3, a motion which, if implemented, will be extremely impactful in reducing GHG emissions from LA County departments and vendors. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Sixth Assessment Report reaffirmed the need for us to transition to a plant-based food system in order to prevent a global rise in temperature of 1.5 degrees C. This motion will take tremendous steps towards updating LA County's food procurement guidelines to be more climate-friendly, which will benefit all future Los Angelinos. In the short-term, it will also have the effect of creating a more healthy food system.</p> <p>I truly appreciate Los Angeles County's commitment to taking decisive action on climate change, as the County has shown time and again. Furthermore, the directives of this motion show a true commitment to transparency and tracking progress. As a resident of Los Angeles County I would once again like to thank the Board of Supervisors for considering this item, and Supervisors Horvath and Solis for the motion.</p> <p>-Joey</p>



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The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
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3.		Favor	Juli Schulz	As a resident of Los Angeles and representative of the Better Food Foundation, I ask you to support this action to procure more plant-rich products and move away from animal products to quickly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from animal agriculture, contributing 15% of all emissions, matching vehicle pollution. By adopting this, you can reduce greenhouse gas emissions to help reach the county sustainability goals, promote health equity, support diverse dietary needs, and reduce human and animal inequality from factory farming. LA would join other major cities like NY and DC in creating a more sustainable food system. Shifting toward plant-rich meals isn't just environmentally smart—it's inclusive and forward-thinking. Thank you for considering this vital step for our community.
			Katherine Jernigan	As a resident of LA County, it is important to me to know that my taxpayer dollars aren't being used to purchase food that harms the environment and contributes to our current public health crisis. Plant-based options are the best choice for people, animals, and the planet and this motion is a great step in line with LA's Climate Action Plan and is well supported in the community. This is a great approach to addressing problems in our food system and can help us mitigate the impacts of climate change.



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3.		Favor	Laura L Cascada	Animal agriculture's emissions account for nearly 15 percent of all emissions, matching vehicular contributions, according to a Chatham House report. The authors of the report call for a global shift toward plant-based eating and spotlight a key ingredient: there is "a general belief that it is the role of government to spearhead efforts to address unsustainable consumption of meat." They also note that "government inaction signals to publics that the issue is unimportant or undeserving of concern." Simply put, by modeling a plant-forward commitment, LA can show its constituents what healthy, resilient eating can look like. Despite its "meat and potatoes" image, the U.S. actually has a long history of government-led plant-forward food policies: Meatless Mondays began as a wartime effort to conserve resources. And in the last few years, many major localities have been centering plant-based foods, from New York City's hospital system going plant-based default to Washington, DC, committing to cut its food-related greenhouse gas emissions, and even Austin, Texas passing a plant-forward Food Plan. LA County has already made great strides to follow in the footsteps of these cities, and this motion will continue the momentum toward a sustainable local food system. Additionally, LA can ensure equitable access to culturally relevant foods for people from all religious, cultural, and racial backgrounds and folks with health-related dietary restrictions by passing this proposal. Shifting to a more plant-rich food system includes everyone, such as the 30-50 million Americans who are lactose intolerant (who are predominantly BIPOC), folks with religious restrictions, young people who are eating more plant-based foods, and people of color (a third of whom have reported reducing their meat consumption compared to a fourth of Americans overall). Thank you for your work to create a healthier food norm for the community.
			Maitte Medina	I am writing to express my support for the recommendation as submitted by Supervisors Horvath and Solis to encourage more plant-based food options in County Departments. Increasing plant-based foods and decreasing intake of red meats is supported by systematic reviews, as recently reported in The Scientific Report of the 2025 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee. I fully support transitioning to plant-based food options in LA County Departments, both for improved health and ethical reasons.



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The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
3.		<b>Favor</b>	Seneca Velling	<p>I am a researcher at Caltech and JPL, I am acutely aware of the impacts of climate change as we all are. One of the greatest drivers of this is overconsumption of factory farmed animal products. Don't get me wrong, I love a good steak as much as the next guy, but we need to be incentivizing better — plant based specifically— purchases in our county. The purchasing power of the county here is a good financial driver for better outcomes by reducing land use, water consumption and contamination, possible disease spread (consider H5N1 now in cattle herds and avian flocks), and over all greenhouse gas emissions. This type of scope 3 emissions are by far one of the most significant— on par with driving! Let's do better and this motion is a good place to start, maybe next we can incentivize businesses to target 50% plant based options on their menus or the likes.</p>
			Stefanie Lynch	<p>To the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors,</p> <p>On behalf of Greener By Default, and as a resident of Los Angeles County, I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed policy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through food procurement in Los Angeles County (Item #3: Expanding County Action to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions through Food Procurement). This comprehensive policy represents a crucial step toward our county addressing climate change while promoting the public health of fellow Angelenos.</p> <p>We are particularly encouraged by several key aspects of this proposal:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The commitment to establishing baseline and publicly transparent GHG emissions measurements and creating specific reduction targets</li> <li>2. The implementation of a 2:1 ratio of plant-based to non-plant-based entrées and encouraging food service operations to default to plant-based dairy alternatives</li> <li>3. The development of educational materials to help County departments understand and meet food-based emissions targets</li> <li>4. Policy language allows for freedom of choice to accommodate those who might want a non-plant based meal</li> </ol> <p>Climate change is a global issue; each of us doing our small part adds up to curbing environmental devastation and that can start here in our County. Studies show if we made every other industry carbon neutral (that's fossil fuels, buildings, etc) but continue to eat as we currently are, we cannot meet the Paris Agreement's goal of limiting temperature rise to no more than 1.5°C. That's because the global food system is responsible for over 30% of human-caused greenhouse gas emissions, with animal-based foods being a primary culprit.</p> <p>Eating more plant-based foods is a critical piece of the solution to this puzzle. Data shows that on average, plant-based foods produce half the emissions of</p>

			<p>animal-based foods, and yet they are often overlooked as a solution. I applaud the Board of Supervisors for recognizing the massive implications a policy like this could have in carbon reduction, and for stepping up as a leader to shine light on the importance of this solution.</p> <p>As an organization dedicated to making plant-based options more accessible, we believe this policy will serve as a model for other jurisdictions nationwide. LA County has the opportunity to lead the way and inspire others to make systemic changes to transform their food procurement practices and massively decrease their carbon footprint as well.</p> <p>We strongly encourage the Board to approve this policy and stand ready to support its successful implementation in any way we can.</p> <p>Sincerely,  Stefanie Lynch  1368 N Avenue 46, Los Angeles, CA 90041  Corporate Engagement Director at Greener By Default</p>
		<b>Oppose</b>	<p>Robert C</p> <p>this is anti-meat propaganda that continues to spread misinformation reaching back to the days of Ancel Keys. the cause of heart disease stems from consumption of excess calories, sugary foods, and lack of physical movement. red meat is healthy. ruminants such as cattle, regenerate the soil and land. the reason the county currently spends more on animal products is because that is what people need to survive. vegetarian foods are heavily processed mono-crops that lack nutrition needed by infants, nursing women, and humans overall. instead the county was to propagandize ie: "cultural adapation" the public into eating food that is not in their best health.</p>
		<b>Item Total</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>15</b>



## **In favor of Item #3: Expanding County Action to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions through Food Procurement**

To the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of Greener By Default, and as a resident of Los Angeles County, I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed policy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through food procurement in Los Angeles County (*Item #3: Expanding County Action to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions through Food Procurement*). This comprehensive policy represents a crucial step toward our county addressing climate change while promoting the public health of fellow Angelenos.

We are particularly encouraged by several key aspects of this proposal:

1. The commitment to establishing baseline and publicly transparent GHG emissions measurements and creating specific reduction targets
2. The implementation of a 2:1 ratio of plant-based to non-plant-based entrées and encouraging food service operations to default to plant-based dairy alternatives
3. The development of educational materials to help County departments understand and meet food-based emissions targets
4. Policy language allows for freedom of choice to accommodate those who might want a non-plant based meal

Climate change is a global issue; each of us doing our small part adds up to curbing environmental devastation and that can start here in our County. Studies show if we made every other industry carbon neutral (that's fossil fuels, buildings, etc) but continue to eat as we currently are, we cannot meet the Paris Agreement's goal of limiting temperature rise to no more than 1.5°C. That's because the global food system is responsible for over 30% of human-caused greenhouse gas emissions, with animal-based foods being a primary culprit.

Eating more plant-based foods is a critical piece of the solution to this puzzle. Data shows that on average, plant-based foods produce half the emissions of animal-based foods, and yet they are often overlooked as a solution. I applaud the Board of Supervisors for recognizing the massive implications a policy like this could have in carbon reduction, and for stepping up as a leader to shine light on the importance of this solution.

As an organization dedicated to making plant-based options more accessible, we believe this policy will serve as a model for other jurisdictions nationwide. LA County has the opportunity to lead the way and inspire others to make systemic changes to transform their food procurement practices and massively decrease their carbon footprint as well.

We strongly encourage the Board to approve this policy and stand ready to support its successful implementation in any way we can.

Sincerely,  
Stefanie Lynch  
1368 N Avenue 46, Los Angeles, CA 90041  
*Corporate Engagement Director at Greener By Default*

Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles, California  
Tuesday, January 7, 2025

**SUPPORT:** Expanding County Action to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions through Food Procurement

Dear Chair Horvath, Supervisor Barger, Supervisor Solis, Supervisor Mitchell, and Supervisor Hahn,

On behalf of Mercy For Animals and our Los Angeles-based supporters and staff, thank you for considering a motion to expand county action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through food procurement, which we support.

This motion supports Action 134 of the County's Sustainability Plan, which states that the County will "promote plant-based menu options through nutrition and food procurement policies in food service settings such as County facilities, hospitals, higher learning institutions, school districts, jails, and other food settings." The County can demonstrate its commitment to environmental sustainability, public health, fiscal responsibility, inclusivity, and animal welfare, by implementing policies that make plant-based foods the focal point of meals. Importantly, this motion significantly builds upon the County's 2024 motion, Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions through Food Procurement.

Mercy For Animals is especially encouraged by the County's commitment to integrate the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's updated Standards for Prepared Foods, Snacks, and Beverages in all new and renewing food service contracts. By integrating strategies that encourage a 2:1 ratio of plant-based to animal-based entrées and require offering plant-based dairy alternatives, for example, the County is taking meaningful and much needed action.

In addition to reducing its food-related greenhouse gas emissions, we respectfully urge the County to consider additional environmental costs associated with purchasing animal-based foods. For example, chicken production uses six times as much water as plant-based proteins<sup>1</sup> and the growing of chicken feed is a main contributor to deforestation.<sup>2</sup> The prioritization and increased accessibility of healthy, plant-based foods can help address environmental harms beyond greenhouse gas emissions.

On behalf of Mercy For Animals, I'd like to thank Chair Horvath and Supervisor Solis for introducing this motion and **urge the Board to support.**

Sincerely,  
Alex Cerussi  
Senior State Policy Manager  
Mercy For Animals

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<sup>1</sup>[https://waterfootprint.org/resources/multimediahub/Mekonnen-Hoekstra-2012-WaterFootprintFarmAnimalProducts\\_4.pdf](https://waterfootprint.org/resources/multimediahub/Mekonnen-Hoekstra-2012-WaterFootprintFarmAnimalProducts_4.pdf)  
<sup>2</sup><https://www.bbc.com/news/newsbeat-55086977>



Board of Supervisors  
Los Angeles County  
Meeting: 1/07/2025

## **SUPPORT: EXPANDING COUNTY ACTION TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS THROUGH FOOD PROCUREMENT**

On behalf of the Center for Biological Diversity and our California members, thank you for committing to climate-friendly food procurement and setting ambitious targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through low-emissions food purchases. The Center for Biological Diversity is a national conservation nonprofit with nearly 2 million members and supporters. Our expertise is grounded in science in tackling effective strategies for mitigating climate change.

We fully support the motion to integrate the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's updated Standards for Prepared Foods, Snacks, and Beverages in all new and renewing food service contracts to reduce the County's food-related emissions by procuring more plant-based and fewer animal-based foods. The Center for Biological Diversity was pleased to work with the County and How Good in providing food procurement emissions calculations for DPH.

Plant-based foods have a dramatically lower climate footprint than animal-based foods.<sup>1</sup> Half of all food-related emissions come from meat and dairy products, which are responsible for at least 16% of global greenhouse gases.<sup>2 3</sup>

The United States substantially overproduces and overconsumes these high-emissions foods, beyond what is healthy for the planet, and this comes with a high cost for the climate,<sup>4</sup> clean and

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<sup>1</sup> Poore, J., Nemecek, T. (2018). [Reducing food's environmental impacts through producers and consumers](#). *Science*, 360(6392), 987-992.

<sup>2</sup> Calculated using the 2017 online update to the FAO 2013 GLEAM assessment that estimates the livestock sector emitted 8.1 GT CO<sub>2</sub>eq in 2010 (using 298 and 34 as global warming potentials for N<sub>2</sub>O and CH<sub>4</sub>, based on the IPCC 2014 report). The IPCC 2014 report estimates total anthropogenic GHG emissions in 2010 of 49 GT CO<sub>2</sub>eq. See: FAO, Global Livestock Environmental Assessment Model (GLEAM) [online], Rome, [www.fao.org/gleam/en/](http://www.fao.org/gleam/en/) and IPCC [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change], *Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*, [Core Writing Team, R.K. Pachauri & L.A. Meyer (eds.)], IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland (2014), [http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar5/syr/SYR\\_AR5\\_FINAL\\_full\\_wcover.pdf](http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar5/syr/SYR_AR5_FINAL_full_wcover.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> Gerber, P. J., Steinfeld, H., Henderson, B., Mottet, A., Opio, C., Dijkman, J., ... & Tempio, G. (2013). Tackling climate change through livestock: a global assessment of emissions and mitigation opportunities. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). <http://www.fao.org/3/i3437e/i3437e.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> University of Michigan. Center for Sustainable Systems (2017). Carbon Footprint Factsheet. [http://css.umich.edu/sites/default/files/Carbon%20Footprint\\_CSS09-05\\_e2020\\_0.pdf](http://css.umich.edu/sites/default/files/Carbon%20Footprint_CSS09-05_e2020_0.pdf).



available water,<sup>5</sup> public health,<sup>6</sup> thriving land use,<sup>7</sup> and biodiversity.<sup>8</sup> Cities and counties contribute to this system via food procurement policies.

We cannot meet climate mitigation targets without tackling emissions from the food sector by shifting diets toward lower-emissions foods. Food procurement is an opportunity for cities and counties to reduce consumption-driven emissions. Shifting toward climate-friendly food has big payoffs in advancing sustainability goals and meeting emissions targets. Most agricultural emissions come from only a few foods.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has affirmed we have limited time to avoid irreversible climate damage.<sup>9</sup> By purchasing lower-emissions and more sustainable foods, the County can reduce its climate impact significantly. The proposed policy would also align with the County's efforts in the C-40 cities initiative.<sup>10</sup>

Sustainable food policy can address the significant environmental impact of food procurement<sup>11</sup> and increase climate resilience,<sup>12</sup> reduce the effects of poverty, improve public health, and protect biodiversity.<sup>13</sup>

Los Angeles County has an opportunity to provide food policy leadership. The proposed motion can help drive us in the right direction and provide an inspiring a model for other county food policies.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Molitor, Ph.D.

Senior Food Campaigner  
Center for Biological Diversity  
BiologicalDiversity.org  
[jmolitor@biologicaldiversity.org](mailto:jmolitor@biologicaldiversity.org).

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<sup>5</sup> Water Footprint Network (2021). Water Footprint of Crop and Animal Products: A Comparison. <https://waterfootprint.org/en/water-footprint/product-water-footprint/water-footprint-crop-and-animal-products/>.

<sup>6</sup> Battaglia Richi E, Baumer B, Conrad B, Darioli R, Schmid A, Keller U. Health Risks Associated with Meat Consumption: A Review of Epidemiological Studies. *Int J Vitam Nutr Res.* 2015;85(1-2):70-8. doi: 10.1024/0300-9831/a000224. PMID: 26780279.

<sup>7</sup> Carbon Brief (2021). Interactive: What is the Climate Footprint of Eating Meat and Dairy? CarbonBrief.org. <https://interactive.carbonbrief.org/what-is-the-climate-impact-of-eating-meat-and-dairy/>.

<sup>8</sup> Center for Biological Diversity (2021). Extinction Facts. TakeExtinctionOffYourPlate.com.

<sup>9</sup> Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2018). Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5c. <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>.

<sup>10</sup> C-40.Org. (2019). 14 Cities Commit to Sustainable Food Policies That Will Address the Global Climate Emergency. <https://www.c40.org/news/good-food-cities/>.

<sup>11</sup> United Nation System Standing Committee on Nutrition (2017). Sustainable Diets for Healthy People and a Healthy Planet. <https://www.unscn.org/uploads/web/news/document/Climate-Nutrition-Paper-EN-WEB.pdf>.

<sup>12</sup> Smith, P. (2012). "Climate Change and Sustainable Food Production." Cambridge University Press. <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/proceedings-of-the-nutrition-society/article/climate-change-and-sustainable-foodproduction/DE02043AE462DF7F91D88FD4349D38E7>.

<sup>13</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization (2010). Sustainable Diets and Biodiversity. <http://www.fao.org/3/i3004e/i3004e.pdf>.

January 7, 2025

**SUPPORT:** *Expanding County Action to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions through Food Procurement*

Dear Chair Horvath, Supervisor Barger, Supervisor Solis, Supervisor Mitchell, and Supervisor Hahn:

I am writing today on behalf of the Humane League and our supporters in Los Angeles County to respectfully ask for your support of the **motion to expand County action on reducing greenhouse gas emissions through food procurement.**

This motion builds upon the County's 2024 motion, Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions through Food Procurement, and supports Action 134 of the County's Sustainability Plan, which aims to promote plant-based menu options through nutrition and food procurement policies in food service settings across the County. Passage of this motion would demonstrate the County's commitment to environmental sustainability, public health, fiscal responsibility, inclusivity, and animal welfare.

If passed, the **environmental impact** of this motion would be substantial. Research by Greener by Default has shown that transitioning from animal-based products to plant-based foods as the preferred menu option can reduce the food's carbon footprint by 40% and water footprint by 24%<sup>1</sup>. In addition, the University of Oxford's comprehensive analysis in *Science* demonstrates that the adoption of plant-based diets could reduce food emissions by up to 70%<sup>2</sup>. Beyond emissions, animal agriculture is responsible for approximately 80% of global deforestation<sup>3</sup>, and the World Wildlife Fund reports that industrial livestock production threatens 94% of endangered species<sup>4</sup>.

The potential **health benefits** of this motion are equally compelling. The *Journal of the American Heart Association* has documented that individuals following plant-based diets have a 25% lower risk of all-cause mortality and decreased risk of cardiovascular disease<sup>5</sup>. Research from *JAMA Internal Medicine* shows that plant-based diets can reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes by 23%<sup>6</sup>, and a

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<sup>1</sup> Katie Cantrell, [Put Your Best Food Forward with Greener by Default](#) (Washington, DC: Greener by Default, n.d.)

<sup>2</sup> Springmann, M., Godfray, H. C., Rayner, M., & Scarborough, P. (2016). *Analysis and valuation of the health and climate change cobenefits of dietary change*. PNAS, 113(15), 4146-4151

<sup>3</sup> [Greenpeace](#)

<sup>4</sup> [World Wildlife Fund](#)

<sup>5</sup> Kim, Hyunju et al. *Plant-Based Diets Are Associated With a Lower Risk of Incident Cardiovascular Disease, Cardiovascular Disease Mortality, and All-Cause Mortality in a General Population of Middle-Aged Adults*. *Journal of the American Heart Association* vol. 8,16 (2019): e012865. doi:10.1161/JAHA.119.012865

<sup>6</sup> Qian, Frank, et al. "[Association between Plant-Based Dietary Patterns and Risk of Type 2 Diabetes.](#)" *JAMA Internal Medicine*, vol. 179, no. 10, 22 July 2019

comprehensive meta-analysis in the *British Medical Journal* found that increasing plant-based foods could prevent one in five premature deaths<sup>7</sup>.

The passage of this motion and expanding plant-based options **would make the County's food system more inclusive and equitable**. According to Gallup polling, 41% of Americans have tried plant-based meats, with higher percentages among younger and more diverse populations<sup>8</sup>. The National Institutes of Health reports that approximately 65% of the global population is lactose intolerant, with rates significantly higher among people of color<sup>9</sup>. In addition, plant-based options better accommodate diverse religious and cultural dietary practices, such as those observed in Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Judaism, where certain animal products may be restricted or prohibited<sup>10</sup>.

The potential **economic benefits** of this motion for the County are significant. Research from Oxford University's Food Climate Research Network demonstrates that plant-based procurement can reduce institutional food costs by 14-23%<sup>11</sup>.

New York City's implementation in public hospitals demonstrates the remarkable success that is possible when plant-based foods are the default menu item. After making plant-based options the default meal choice, they achieved a 95% satisfaction rate and expanded the program to dinner service<sup>12</sup>. Approximately 60% of patients chose to maintain the plant-based option for their meal<sup>13</sup>. The NYC Health + Hospitals program has generated savings of 59 cents per tray and has since become a model for healthcare facilities nationwide.<sup>14</sup>

I urge you to support this motion and help position Los Angeles County as a leader in sustainable and inclusive food procurement practices.

Sincerely,

Hannah Truxell

Senior Policy Counsel, The Humane League

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<sup>7</sup> Aune, Dagfinn, et al. [Fruit and Vegetable Intake and the Risk of Cardiovascular Disease, Total Cancer and All-Cause Mortality-a Systematic Review and Dose-Response Meta-Analysis of Prospective Studies](#). *International Journal of Epidemiology*, vol. 46, no. 3, 2017, pp. 1029–1056

<sup>8</sup> [Gallup](#)

<sup>9</sup> Fisher, Rachel. [Definition & Facts for Lactose Intolerance](#). National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, 11 Apr. 2019,

<sup>10</sup> Krishnaveni, G. V., Kehoe, S.H., and K. Kumaran. 2017. *Religious Variations in Vegetarian Diets and Impact on Health Status of Children: Perspectives From Traditional Vegetarian Societies*. Vegetarian and Plant-Based Diets in Health and Disease Prevention. Academic Press. 107-116.

<sup>11</sup> University of Oxford. [Sustainable Eating Is Cheaper and Healthier - Oxford Study | University of Oxford](#). University of Oxford, 11 Nov. 2021

<sup>12</sup> Adams, Mayor. [Mayor Adams, NYC H+H CEO Katz Announce Successful Rollout and Expansion of Plant-Based Meals as Default Option for Patients in NYC Public Hospitals](#). NYC.gov, 28 September 2022,

<sup>13</sup> [How Hospital Food Can Fuel Sustainability Efforts](#) | AHA. (2023, October 3). American Hospital Association.

<sup>14</sup> *Id.*

My name is Ellen Dent, and I am a Plant Based Treaty Campaigner. I want to thank Supervisors Lindsey P. Horvath and Supervisor Hilda L. Solis for bringing forth this motion. I wholeheartedly support this motion because I believe that analyzing the food procured and adding more plant-based options based on the findings will help LA County meet its greenhouse gas emissions goals.

Animal agriculture is responsible for more than a third of greenhouse gas emissions and more than the whole transportation system combined. It utilizes 83% of the farmland we use but only produces 18% of the global caloric intake along with only 33% of protein. Our food system alone can push our planet's temperature well past the 1.5 degrees Celsius target and past 2 degrees Celsius. It is the leading cause of biodiversity loss, deforestation, and ocean dead zones.


For all of the reasons above and so many more I urge you to pass this motion. My daughter was born in the heart of Los Angeles County and I want her to be able to enjoy being there in the future. I hope you will pass it for her and for the future of all the residents in the county while setting an example for other governments to take this vital action in the effort to mitigate the climate crisis.


Thank you very much for your time and consideration.




**Ellen Dent (she/her)**

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